

REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS

June 7, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held at the Village Hall, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York on June 7, 2021.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:00P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Brian Aylward
Trustee James DiSalvo
Trustee Melanie Guerrero
Trustee Gary C. Phillips

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
TOH Councilman, Jim Modlin
TOH Councilman, Richard Sullivan
O.C. Legislator, Laurie Tautel
Approximately 10 Community members

Mayor D'Onofrio opened the meeting and remembered our service members and Community members who have passed away since the last meeting. The meeting was held under the guidelines of Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1

Comments were received on agenda or any other matter.

Kat Dagaev, 40 West Point Highway, reported to the Board that a petition had been signed by 344 residents to ask for a vote to be held to decide on the dissolution of the Highland Falls Police Department.

Martha Aylward, 13 Church Street, commented that the community cannot afford two Police Departments and it is up to the two Boards to work to make changes.

Edward Falta, 427 Main Street, asked to hear a report on the Board's visit to the County 911 Center. Mayor D'Onofrio responded that most did not go out to see the operation of 911. Trustee Guerrero responded that she had and gave an overview of the services provided by the County 911 Center.

Mr. & Mrs. Loucks, 48 Roe Avenue, thanked the Village Board for their quick response in rectifying the wall collapse at their property that abuts Mearns Avenue and being proactive in getting the matter taken care of.

Joe DeWitt, 34 Villa Parkway, commented on the dissolution petition to suggest that it's important for everyone to know the pro's and con's of a Police Dissolution. Mr. DeWitt requested that facts be presented and that the Village Board hear the voice of the people.

Cindy Modlin, 30 Michel Rd., commented that the issue has been talked about for too long and it's time to let the Village residents decide.

Merv Livsey, 107 Mountain Ave, complimented the Village Board on how great the sidewalks look. Mr. Livsey commented that when he was a Village Trustee the MOA numbers were out in public, but he hasn't heard any more on it. Mr. Livsey requested the Village Board provide the numbers.

Trustee Guerrero commented that inaction by the Board has resulted in the cost to fix the wall on Mearns Avenue to almost double.

Orange County Legislator, Laurie Tautel, commented that consolidation was discussed when she was a Town Councilwoman in 2009 and years moving forward and that it has never gone before the public. Ms. Tautel agreed that a local law must be done before a vote can go before the public. Ms. Tautel commented that it's time for the people of the community to speak on the matter.

Jim Modlin, Town Councilman, 30 Michel Rd, reminded the Board that it's dissolution being discussed, not consolidation of departments. Mr. Modlin commented that this is squarely a Highland Falls issue and that the Town will do the right thing to ensure the safety of the whole community.

Trustee Brian Aylward agreed that a vote should be held to allow the residents to vote on the matter.

The Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune, explained that the residents cannot put a referendum up for dissolution of the Police Department on their own, the Village Board must introduce a local law that allows for a permissive referendum, to include legislative intent and with a plan of what happens next.

Town Councilman Richard Sullivan, explained that if the Village Police Department was to be

dissolved, the Town would take over Policing duties by default.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting- May 17, 2021

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the following minutes:

Special Meeting- May 26, 2021

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and on a roll call vote, the results which follow: 3 Ayes (D’Onofrio, DiSalvo, Guerrero) 0 Nays , 2 Abstain (Aylward, Phillips) motion carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Resolution
Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees
Supporting and Concurring in the
Orange County Community Development
Block Grant Program
FY-2022 Funding Application
Municipal Grant Program

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and duly put to a roll call vote, the results which follow: 5 Ayes 0 Nay

	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Trustee Brian Aylward	x	
Trustee James DiSalvo	x	
Trustee Melanie Guerrero	x	
Trustee Gary C. Phillips	x	
Mayor Joseph E. D’Onofrio	x	

motion carried. (A true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes)

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to hold a public hearing on June 21st at 7:00pm at the Senior Center, 15 Drew Avenue, Highland Falls on the submittal of a 2022 Orange County Community Development Block Grant Application and have the Clerk publish such notice.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and on a roll call vote, the results which follow: 5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned the following:

**BOND RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS,
NEW YORK, ADOPTED JUNE 7, 2021, AUTHORIZING THE
ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT IN AND FOR THE VILLAGE,
STATING THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS \$420,000,
APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, AND
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT
OF \$420,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.**

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:

	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Trustee Brian Aylward	x	
Trustee James DiSalvo	x	
Trustee Melanie Guerrero		x
Trustee Gary C. Phillips	x	
Mayor Joseph E. D’Onofrio	x	

The resolution was declared adopted. (A true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes)

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the renewal of the EAP Services Agreement Addendum#15 with the annual cost of \$1,939.00 and authorized Mayor D’Onofrio to sign the agreement.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the appointment of John Scherne as a DPW Laborer @ \$17.00/hr per the DPWEA Contract, effective 6/10/2021, with maximum probation of 52 weeks, per the recommendation of the Interim Street Superintendent, John Jones.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the appointment of Larry Dunn as a DPW Laborer @ \$17.00/hr per the DPWEA Contract, effective 6/10/2021, with maximum probation of 52 weeks, per the recommendation of the Interim Street Superintendent, John Jones.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the appointment of Luciana Brown to Full Time Account Clerk from the Civil Service List of Eligibles, effective 6/10/2021 at the rate of \$20.00/hr and with maximum probation of 52 weeks, per the recommendation of the Village Clerk.

The motion was seconded by Mayor D'Onofrio and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to appoint Tyler Vecchio a Full time Police Officer from the Civil Service list of Eligibles, effective 7/8/2021 @ recruit salary \$47,851 while in training, to be increased to \$54,687 starting salary upon completion of training, per the PBA Contract, per the recommendation of OIC Sgt. Jason Torpey.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Trustee Guerrero motioned to accept the retirement of Part time Police Officer Randy Bailey, effective May 5, 2021.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Mayor D'Onofrio motioned to re-appoint Randy Bailey to the position of Part time Police Officer, effective 6/4/2021, at the rate of step 5 in the PBA Contract.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
3 Ayes (Phillips, DiSalvo, D'Onofrio) 2 Nays (Aylward, Guerrero) motion carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the 8th Grade Celebration, at Roe Park, Friday, June 18, 2021 from 5:45pm – 9:00pm, waive the live entertainment permit and with a parade through Main Street back to Roe Park prior to the celebration.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the 8th Grade Picnic, at Roe Park, Thursday, June 24, 2021 from 11:30am – 2:45pm.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the 4th of July activities as follows: Parade from BSF to Regina Rd. from 2:00pm-4:30pm, activities on Roe Park field from 5:00pm-9:00pm with fireworks to follow, pending insurance being turned into the Village Clerk prior to the events.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried

A motion was made by Trustee Aylward to approve the bills and claims for FY20-21 for \$39,964.20 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$ 21,258.90
Water Fund	\$ 17,299.31
Sewer Fund	\$ <u>1,405.99</u>
	\$ 39,964.20

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Aylward to approve the bills and claims for FY21-22 for \$359,961.44 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$ 287,682.30
Section 8	\$ 65,608.00
Water Fund	\$ 3,069.00
Sewer Fund	\$ <u>3,602.14</u>
	\$359,961.44

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Mayor D'Onofrio reported that bids are out for the Restore NY grant to remove paint from the building at 4 Mountain Ave. Mayor D'Onofrio reminded people to be careful where they install air conditioners and not block fire escapes.

Trustee Aylward reported that he supports the purchase of the DPW equipment to replace the old equipment currently being used. Mr. Aylward commented that in order for the DPW to get the job done, they must have safe and proper equipment.

Trustee Guerrero commented that the Board should save and plan for replacements and reiterated that Orange County 911 is a state of the art operation and we are already paying for it.

Trustee Phillips reminded residents to conserve water when possible as the summer is approaching.

Trustee Aylward motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 8:41 P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk